

Cuban Fiasco Focuses Interest on Roles Of CIA, Allen Dulles

Editor Herald:

Since the Cuban fiasco President Kennedy has shown ~~deep~~ concern about the Central Intelligence Agency. In fact, he is so concerned that he has suggested replacing Allen W. Dulles as chief of the CIA. The president has also indicated that there may be some changes in the structure of the organization itself.

There are many Americans other than the president who are also vitally concerned about the role the CIA has played since its inception. One such is a writer by the name of Fred J. Cook who in a special issue of "The Nation" dated June 24, 1961, has written a detailed and documented report on the CIA.

As reported by Mr. Cook, "The CIA was born in 1947 by an act of Congress under the Truman administration. The State Department issued a report at that time stating that the CIA should have nothing to do with policy. It should try to get the hard facts on which others must determine policy."

According to Mr. Cook, "The case could not have been put better. With this strong implicit statement, virtually every expert on the subject has been in complete agreement. But unfortunately this wasn't the way the CIA was to be set up and this wasn't the way that increasingly, under Allen Dulles himself in later years, it was to run."

In his report the author states that "Allen W. Dulles became deputy director of the CIA under Boddell Smith in August 1951, and in January 1953 with the advent of the Eisenhower administration, he was named director even as his brother, John Foster Dulles, became secretary of state. Thus, the New York Times noted at the time . . . 'The nation in a most unusual move had placed in the hands of two brothers the direction of open and secret foreign policy designed to win the cold war against communism'."

The author further states: "Though John Foster Dulles since has died, Allen Welsh Dulles still rules the CIA, and the Cuban debacle that his agency sponsored, planned and directed has provided graphic proof that he still retains his ability to disorientate not only the President and the Congress but also the people of the United States."

Mr. Cook concludes his article, "In the secret world of CIA anything is possible — and no one knows. We can only wonder and doubt. And doubt does not inspire confidence abroad or fervor at home. It's time to clean house."

If any readers of the Mailbag are interested in reading this special issue of "The Nation" on the CIA, it is available at the Salt Lake Public Library and also at the BYU Library and also at the Library at the University of Utah.

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